

Notification of Intent to move an existing degree program.

Name of Institution: Eastern Washington University

Degree title: Bachelor of Arts in Communication Disorders

Delivery mechanism: Face-to-face instruction

Location: Move from Cheney Campus to the Health Science Building at the Riverpoint, Spokane

Contact Person(s): Dr. Raymond A. Soltero, Dean, College of Science, Mathematics, and Technology
Dr. Seppo Tuomi, Chair, Department of Communication Disorders

Implementation date: September 2004

Executive Summary: The Undergraduate Program of the Department of Communication Disorders is the only health science program left on the Cheney Campus. The Graduate Program in Communication Disorders, together with the other EWU Health Science Programs (Dental Hygiene, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy), is located at the Health Science Building at Riverpoint. Our new graduate facility is part of the University Programs in Communication Disorders (a cooperative program of Eastern Washington University and Washington State University) and offers state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories, equipment as well as a Speech and Hearing Training Clinic. Our undergraduate students already use the Clinic to observe assessment and treatment, and to attend specialist labs.

Substantive statement of need: External evaluators during two recent accreditation visits (HECB October 2002; ASHA April 2003) highly recommended moving the EWU undergraduate program to join the graduate program in Spokane for the following reasons:

1. Departmental and professional identity among all the students would be increased;
2. Learning opportunities and motivation among students and faculty would be increased;
3. Undergraduate students would have better exposure to modern labs and practical aspects of the professional training;

4. It would be easier to establish interdisciplinary learning experiences and team work with the other EWU health science departments in the same building;
5. Faculty would have more time for students, research and other academic endeavors and faculty retention and recruitment would be improved as result of better, unified facilities, reduced traveling and increased motivation;
6. Faculty have more contact and cooperation with WSU faculty and other health science faculty;
7. Faculty control and access to records and teaching material would be improved when they are all in one place;
8. Graduate students will have better access to the Departmental Office;
9. Student recruitment and retention would be improved; and
10. The perception of undergraduate students as less important than graduate students would be reduced. This concern was reported during the October 2002 HECB review completed by Dr. Tony Seikel, who reported that our undergraduate students felt second rate with regard to faculty time, facilities and equipment.

Availability of Facilities at Riverpoint: An analysis of the Health Science Building's Fall 2003 lecture room space indicates that adequate teaching space is available for the approximately 24-26 hours per week that is required for the undergraduate lectures between 8.00 AM and 5.00 PM. There is also adequate public space for the students.

The department would require the minimum of two offices: the Departmental Office and a faculty office. According to the original Health Science Building plans, the department was assigned an additional faculty office, which is presently used by WSU administrative personnel. There also is an EWU graduate teaching assistant's office. This room could act as the Departmental Office, while the TA could use one of the smaller offices presently used by part-time supervisors.

Source of funding: The existing undergraduate program is state funded. No additional funding is needed to make this change. Additional space requirements would consist of only two offices, which in the original plans for the Health Science Building were assigned to the EWU program.

Year 1 and full enrollment targets:

Year 1 & post baccalaureates: 45 FTES (40 students)

Full enrollment (Junior/senior/post baccalaureates): 65 FTES (65 students).